

change, and creating pathways to legal status for immigrants who are contributing members of our communities.

On behalf of the over 2300 Sisters of Mercy and the thousands of Mercy Associates across the United States, we urge you to demonstrate your leadership and ensure that the For the People Act is a priority in the 117th Congress.

Sincerely,

MARGARET CONLEY,
Director, Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Justice Team.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS
FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE,
Washington, DC, February 8, 2021.

DEAR MEMBER OF CONGRESS: We write in support of the For the People Act (HR1/S1), the transformational democracy reform bill that would help return power to everyday Americans. We consider fair representation and accountability for elected leaders to be a moral issue of utmost importance. After the January 6th attack on the US Capitol, the urgency of democracy reforms to address our broken systems could not be more apparent. We are urging Congress to prioritize passage of this pro-voter, anti-corruption legislation.

On a practical level, only a healthy, well-functioning democracy has the capacity to attend to any of the pressing needs our faith calls us to address: the COVID pandemic, systemic racism, climate change, hunger, violence, poverty, healthcare and more. On a moral level, leaders must take swift action to protect the right to vote and to strengthen our democratic foundations from abuse and manipulation by the powerful and the wealthy at the expense of the historically marginalized and most vulnerable people in our nation.

The 2020 election cycle and the insurrection on January 6th have underscored the urgent need for transformational democracy reform. Across the nation, Americans experienced unprecedented voter suppression, historic levels of dark money spent to drown out the voices of everyday Americans, and rampant ethical abuses by special interests. The number of Americans misled into questioning the results of a safe and secure election demonstrates the fragility of our democracy and the urgency of taking concrete actions to shore-up public trust. One sweeping bill, the For the People Act (HR1/S1), addresses many of these problems.

Our organization Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice focuses on four major issues, all of which would be helped significantly by fixing our democracy: economic justice, immigration justice, environmental justice, and democracy. This historic legislation has significant momentum in Congress with priority designation in both chambers. On behalf of UUSJ we urge Congress to pass the For the People Act (HR1/S1) quickly in the 117th Session.

Sincerely,

PABLO DEJESUS,
Executive Director.

CHURCH & SOCIETY,
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH,
Washington, DC, February 22, 2021.

DEAR MEMBER OF CONGRESS: As General Secretary of The United Methodist Church's General Board of Church and Society, I write in support of the For the People Act (HR1), the transformational democracy reform bill that would help our political system be protected by strengthening the power of everyday Americans to determine our nation's leaders. Our ministry of justice and peace is connected to communities of faith across the United States and around the world who consider fair representation and accountability for elected leaders to be a moral issue of ut-

most importance. I am urging Congress to prioritize passage of this legislation which increases the overall transparency and effectiveness of our democratic systems.

The General Board of Church and Society of The United Methodist Church is the public policy agency of The United Methodist Church, a global denomination with more than eight million members in the United States.

We, as a denomination, understand that the strength of our political life together is determined by "the full and willing participation" of its citizens (2016 Book of Discipline, ¶164a "Political Responsibility").

The United Methodist Church affirms the right to vote for all adult citizens as a basic human right.

"We hold governments responsible for the protection of the rights of the people to free and fair elections . . . The form and the leaders of all governments should be determined by exercise of the right to vote guaranteed to all adult citizens." (2016 Book of Discipline, ¶164a "Basic Freedoms and Human Rights.")

The United Methodist Church calls for a vision of beloved community founded on economic and racial justice, including strengthening voting rights protections, in light of continued systemic racism that threatens to undermine provisions for fair and free elections for all citizens.

The For the People Act (HR1) makes sure that every citizen is able to exercise their civic duty free of voter suppression and murky campaign financing.

Too many Americans, particularly in communities of color, have been unjustly prevented from exercising their right to vote through extraordinary and deeply discriminatory voter suppression laws. Strong and dedicated community leaders are prevented from pursuing public office simply because of the overwhelming financial burden of running a campaign. On top of these deep systemic issues, the number of Americans in the 2020 election cycle misled into questioning the results of a general election with historic voter turn-out demonstrates the fragility of our democracy and the urgency of taking concrete actions to shore-up public trust. The For the People Act (HR1) addresses many of these problems.

The common-sense reforms in this legislation, developed through years of bi-partisan efforts and passed in many states and localities, aim to accomplish three overarching goals: (1) protecting and strengthening the right to vote, (2) reducing the influence of big money in politics, and (3) implementing anti-corruption, pro-ethics measures.

This historic legislation has significant momentum in Congress with priority designation in both chambers. As a United Methodist faith leader, I urge Congress to pass the For the People Act (HR1) quickly in the 117th Session.

Sincerely Yours,

REV. DR. SUSAN HENRY-CROWE,

General Secretary, General Board of Church and Society, The United Methodist Church.

IN RECOGNITION OF W. GENE KELLY

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of W. Gene

Kelly. Gene passed away on February 17, 2021 after a lifetime of service to the Blair County community.

Gene lived in Martinsburg, Pennsylvania for most of his life. He graduated from Martinsburg High School and attended college at Pennsylvania State University. After college, he worked for the Altoona Area School District for 25 years as an elementary school teacher and principal.

Additionally, Gene served our great nation for six years in the U.S. Army Reserves, and he also founded the W. Gene Henry Mobile Home Parks in Martinsburg.

Throughout his life, Gene was dedicated to community service. He made generous contributions to support the Martinsburg Borough Municipal Building and Police Station, as well as the Martinsburg Volunteer Fire Company. He contributed to many community projects, including highway widenings, the Morrisons Cove Memorial Park, and a pair of buildings in the Fairview Cemetery.

Gene was an admirable, generous, and faithful member of our community. It is my privilege to honor Gene Kelly's life and legacy, and to recognize his many contributions to our nation and region.

HONORING THE LIFE OF HOT SPRINGS NATIVE, CLAY FARRAR

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Hot Springs public servant and historian, Mr. Clay Farrar. He passed away on February 27, 2021, leaving behind a community which mourns the passing of a leader, a servant, a mentor, and a friend.

For nearly 50 years, Mr. Farrar worked on a variety of projects around the Hot Springs community. As a partner at Farrar and Williams PLLC, he specialized in trust and estate planning. Serving as Chairman of the Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce in 1988, Mr. Farrar became instrumental in the development and success of Hot Springs. He was considered an expert in local history, producing a series on the National Park Rotary Club, writing monthly columns of local history for the Hot Springs Sentinel-Record, and contributing to the Garland County Historical Society. In 1985, Mr. Farrar had a profound impact on the preservation of Hot Springs National Park's designation when efforts were made to return it to its original designation as the Hot Springs Reservation. Even after his retirement, Mr. Farrar continued to serve as chairperson of the committee tasked with the repurposing of the ACTI Complex, or the Army/Navy Hospital, which graces the Downtown Hot Springs skyline.

In addition to his life of service for his beloved city, Mr. Farrar was known to be an inspiration and a mentor to many in the community, teaching the power of devotion and hard work through each project he tackled. It is from men like Mr. Clay Farrar that we can discover the importance of learning from our own history to define our future. From him, we derive the definition of true servant leadership.

I take this time today to honor the life of service exemplified by Clay Farrar. I thank him

and his family for their dedication to our fellow citizens and our beloved Fourth District.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MITCH RUSSELL

HON. VICTORIA SPARTZ

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Mrs. SPARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mitchell Lee Russell who passed away at the age of 67 on February 23, 2021. Mitch was the embodiment of a model public servant, striving to serve the citizens of Hamilton County. He protected his fellow citizens for over 30 years before retiring in 2006.

Mitch started his career following in the footsteps of his older brother, Richard, who was also a police officer. Mitch began his service in Arcadia, Indiana as a Deputy Marshal. He then went on to serve in the Hamilton County Sheriff's Department where he spent 29 years, rising to the rank of Lieutenant before retiring. His service to his community did not end with retirement as he was appointed Marshal of the Arcadia Police Department. In 2012, his service continued when he took a job as director of Security for Riverview Health in Noblesville, where he served until his passing.

His public service also extended beyond law enforcement. Mitch served as President of the Arcadia Town Council, a member of the Kiwanis Club, a board member of the Arcadia baseball and softball board, and as a coach for his children and grandchildren. The town of Arcadia has always been very close to his heart.

On behalf of the 5th District, I offer my deepest sympathies to Mitch's wife of 37 years, Melanie Anne, the Russell family, and the community of Arcadia.

NORTHERN MARIANAS FAMILY ASSISTANCE ACT

HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, today I introduce the Northern Marianas Family Assistance Act. This legislation will make long overdue amendments to the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("TANF") program to include the Northern Mariana Islands.

The TANF program provides a lifeline to low-income families with children to meet ongoing needs. Benefits such as childcare, workforce education and training, and food assistance gives families a chance when times get tough. But the benefits of this block grant program are not available in the Marianas.

My bill addresses this inequity.

As we continue to address the economic challenges caused by the coronavirus pandemic, inclusion in the TANF program would ensure that working families with children in the Marianas can continue to put food on the table and have a roof over their head.

RECOGNIZING JUSTIN GRAY

HON. YVETTE HERRELL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Ms. HERRELL. Madam Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge this year's winner of the New Mexico Cattle Growers Association's Livestock Inspector of the Year award. District Supervisor Justin Gray has served his community and his team diligently and is well deserving of this award.

After graduating from Clarendon College in Texas with a major in Ranch and Feedlot management, Justin began his career with the New Mexico Livestock Board in 2014. In 2020, he was promoted to District Supervisor. Justin demonstrated his diligence when he responded to an overturned livestock vehicle on U.S. 70. According to a New Mexico State Police Officer on the scene, "Justin Gray responded to the incident and presented himself in an excellent manner. He assisted in the removal of deceased and live cattle from the overturned trailer for approximately six hours without any complaint. Inspector Gray worked tediously from start to finish of the incident." Stories like this one exemplify Justin's hard work and dedication and I congratulate him on this award.

HONORING JOSEPH VAUGHN FOR HIS YEARS OF SERVICE AS DI- RECTOR AT THE W.G. (BILL) HEFNER VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Joseph Vaughn for his 16 years of service, including three years as Director at the W.G. (Bill) Hefner Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Salisbury, North Carolina. I have seen his extraordinary leadership firsthand and know how much he means to this community and to our veterans.

Mr. Vaughn began his career in 1983 with the United States Navy, where he served for ten years and completed four Mediterranean cruises before being awarded the Navy Achievement Medal. He retires today after over a decade of combined service at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

After being appointed Director on March 19, 2018, he immediately began the important work that would one day transform both the Salisbury VA and the surrounding community. Mr. Vaughn led implementation of the VA MISSION Act, saw facility complexity increase from 1c to 1b, opened ambulatory surgery at VA Health Care Centers in Charlotte and Kernersville, saw the Community Living Center obtain a 5-star quality rating for multiple rating periods, and stimulated major improvements in Hospital Rating (HCAPS). In response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, Mr. Vaughn's quick actions saved many lives and protected countless others through mass vaccination events.

Renee and I would like to extend our most heartfelt appreciation to Mr. Vaughn for his

years of exemplary service at the Salisbury VA. I know I speak for our entire community in wishing him continued success and happiness as he moves on to his next great adventure.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in honoring Joseph Vaughn upon his retirement as Director at the W.G. (Bill) Hefner Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

HONORING THE BRAVE AND LIFE SAVING ACTIONS OF ANDERSON POLICE OFFICER JOE TODD

HON. VICTORIA SPARTZ

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Mrs. SPARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the heroic actions of Anderson Police Officer Joe Todd, who is being credited with saving a life on January 31, 2021. Officer Todd, like so many of our great police officers, put himself in harm's way to serve and protect a citizen.

Officer Todd observed a house fire in progress around 9:00 p.m. that evening. He approached the scene and noticed a woman standing on the front porch with the door open as the flames engulfed the house. Officer Todd ran to the distraught homeowner and asked if there was anyone else inside. The woman then ran back inside the house, visibly shaken by what was occurring. Officer Todd ran after the woman into the burning house and carried her to the front yard to safety.

Our police officers put their lives on the line everyday to serve and protect their fellow citizens. Officer Joe Todd is an example of the selfless work these men and women do every day. On behalf of Indiana's 5th District, it is my honor to commend these brave actions.

IN RECOGNITION OF OPEN HANDS MINISTRIES

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Open Hands Ministries of Stahlstown, Pennsylvania for its service to the Westmoreland County community.

To help families struggling to buy clothes for young infants, Open Hands Ministries began a program in 1994 to donate necessary items to families in need. Each donation includes a crib blanket, a receiving blanket, diapers, onesies, sleepers, bibs, hats, and socks. These contributions have helped thousands of families as they welcome a new addition into their home.

Over the years, the volunteers at Open Hands Ministries have donated almost 11,000 layettes to area families. I thank the volunteers at Open Hands Ministries for their decades of service to southwestern Pennsylvania, and wish them continued success in this vital mission.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4,